Comparing the United States and Other Countries, Chapter 1

Matthew Cawvey

Associate Professor

Department of History and Political Science

Erskine College

Office Hours (EB-317): Mon and Wed, 2–4:30 p.m.

New Book

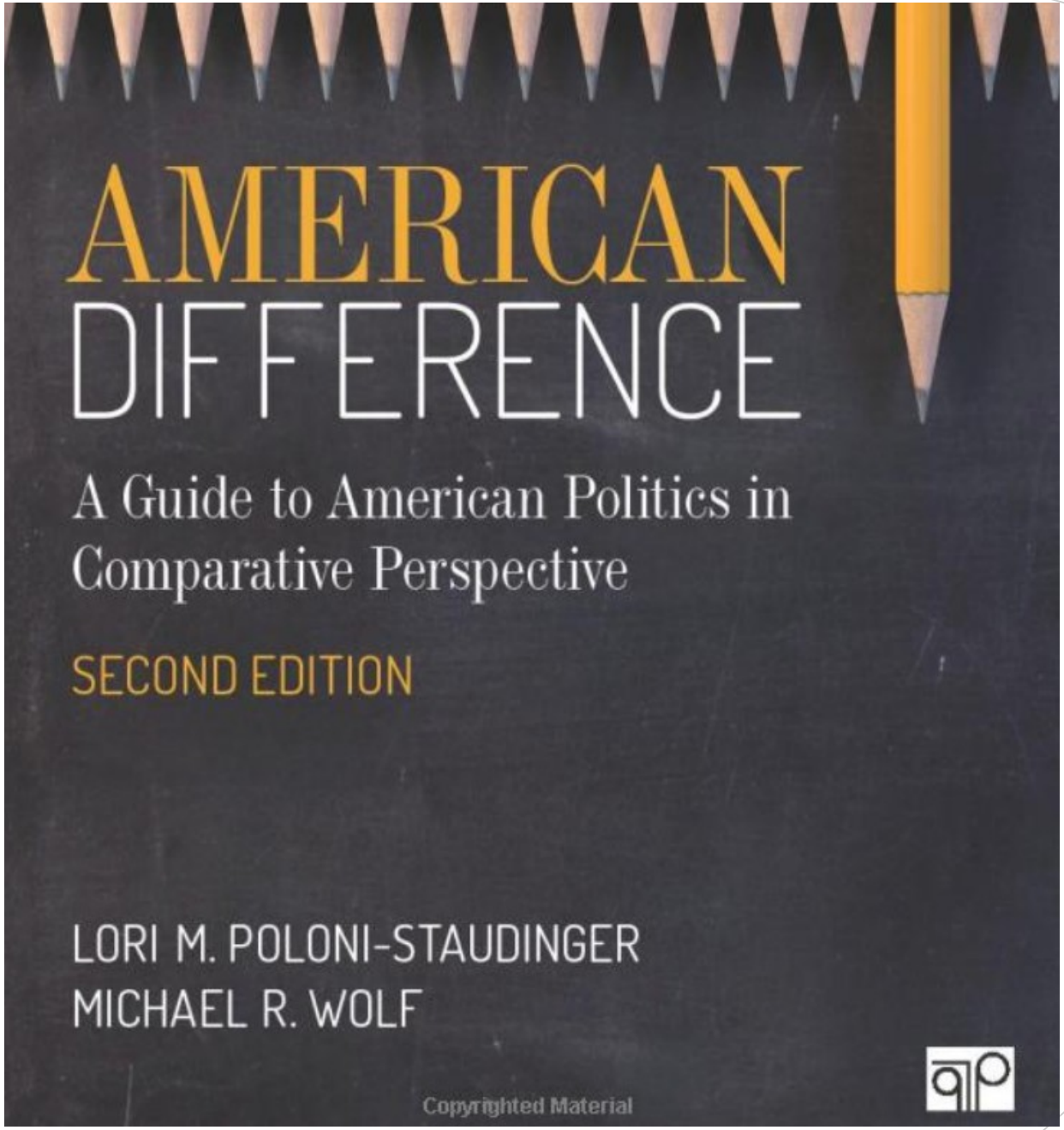


Photo from Amazon.com

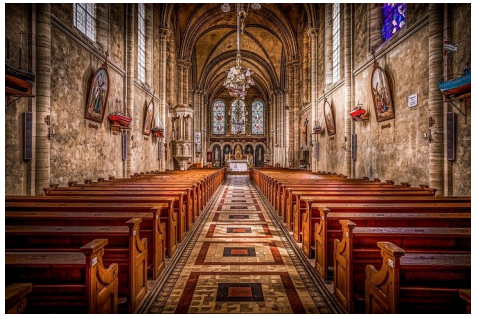
Agenda

- Devotional and prayer
- Why study politics outside of the U.S. in an *American* Government class?

Devotional | Why outside U.S.?

Making Comparisons

- Potential danger of political comparison
- A Biblical response to comparison
  - “Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else” (Galatians 6:4, NIV).
  - “I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others” (2 Corinthians 8:8, NIV).



Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Prof. Cawvey's Research

- Public participation and democracy
- Participation opportunity: Why do people vote, attend local government meetings, contact their members of Congress, join a peaceful political protest, or otherwise participate in politics?

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Prof. Cawvey's Research

- Public participation and democracy
- Why? External efficacy

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

When External Efficacy Is Present…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJUpnUb28ZE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxBXS8sQxcE

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

When External Efficacy Is Absent…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RJXd-5frTk

Devotional | **Why outside**

Prof. Cawvey's Research: Causes of External Efficacy

Political Psychology

ISPP

Political Psychology, Vol. 44, No. 1, 2023
doi: 10.1111/pops.12828

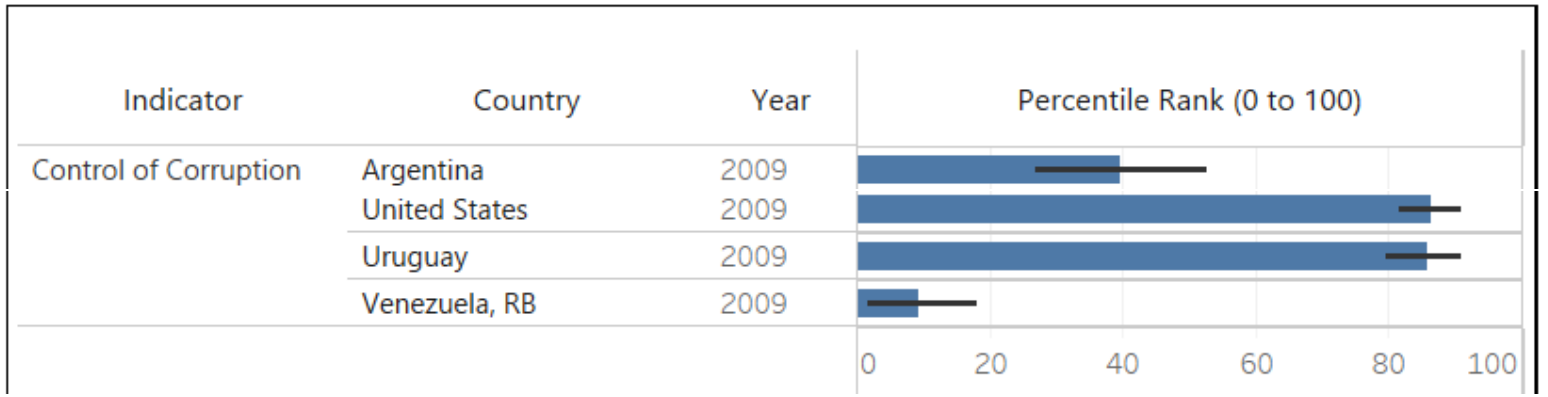
Extraversion and External Efficacy: The Moderating Role of Corruption

Matthew Cawvey
Erskine College

- Extraversion and external efficacy: same relationship in all countries?
  - Positive relationship in past research
  - Positive in U.S. and other low-corruption countries
  - Negative in high-corruption countries
- Three sources of survey data

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

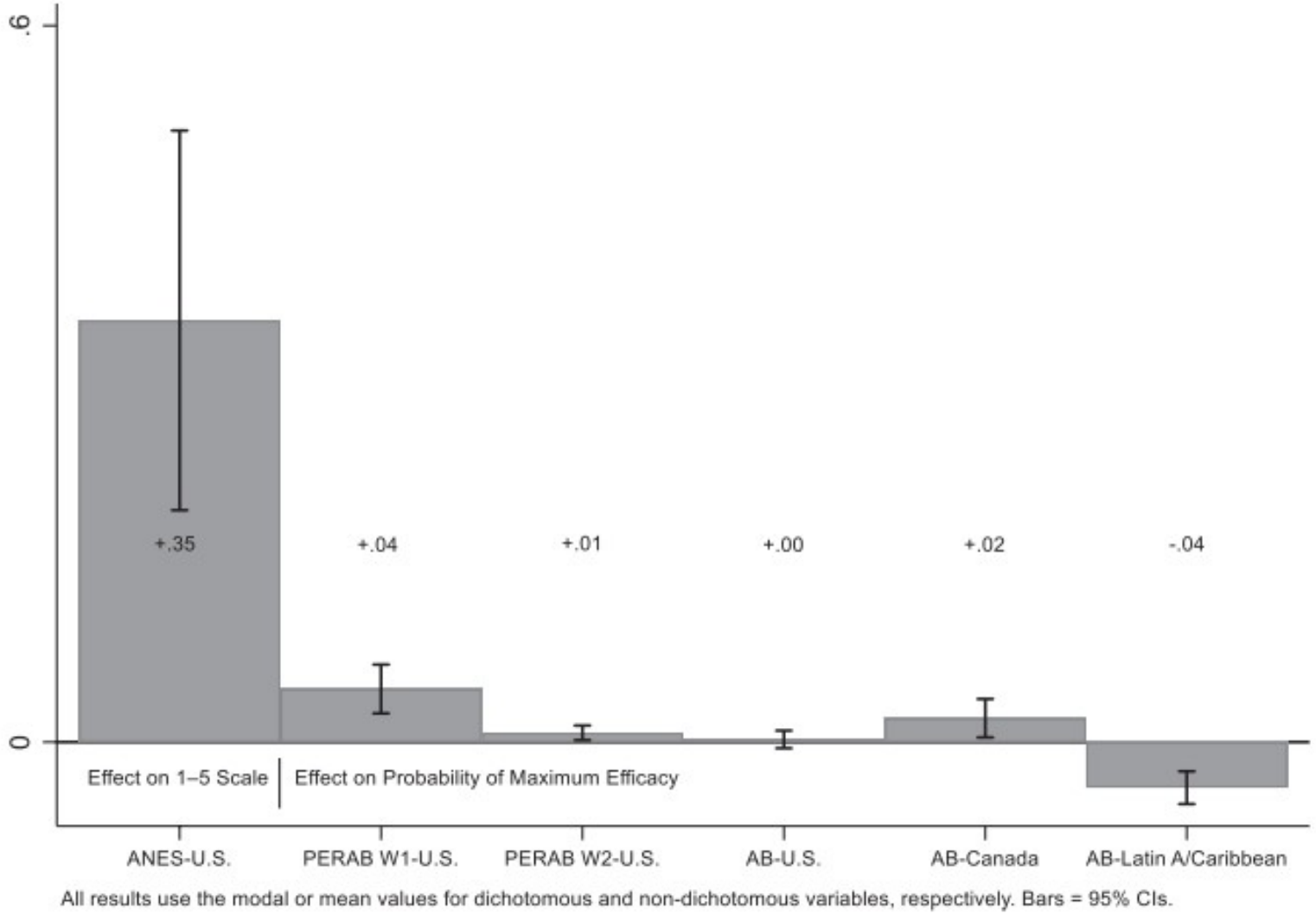
Countries in 2010 AmericasBarometer: Levels of Corruption



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi (2010), The Worldwide Governance Indicators: Methodology and Analytical Issues - https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1682130

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Prof. Cawvey's Findings



Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Relevance of Prof. Cawvey's Research

- An example of comparative politics
- When political research is relevant (Bo Rothstein 2017)
  - Citizens
  - Politicians

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Relevance of Prof. Cawvey's Research

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2ZlYy99QX4

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Bottom Line: Why Study Outside of U.S.?

- Politics works differently across borders
- Identify the unique cultural effects of American individualism and ideology of limited government
  - American exceptionalism
- New policy and institutional ideas

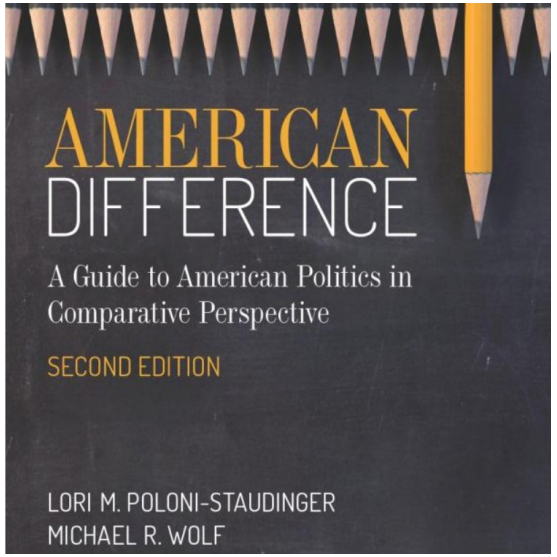


Image courtesy of Amazon.com

oloni-Staudinger and Wolf (page 6): "When readers examine each component of American political life comparatively, they will better understand how American democracy is a distinctive form of government and how other democracies function successfully, albeit

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

American Exceptionalism: Textbook Definition vs. Popular Definition

- Popular definition
- Where do you stand: with the textbook authors or with Jones and Gingrich?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v89wK9osclo

Devotional | **Why outside U.S.?**

Exam Preparation Questions

- Note: Exam 1 is scheduled for week 10 (after fall break). It covers chapters 1–5 of the *American Difference* book and the U.S. Constitution
- **True** or **False**: External efficacy refers to perceived governmental corruption.
- **True** or **False**: In the research project discussed in this lecture, Prof. Cawvey found that the relationship between extraversion and external efficacy was the same in the United States, Canada, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Summing Up and Next Up

- Relevance and usefulness of studying politics in the United States and other countries
- Focus on differences in *American Difference*, but **similarities are next**